

Commander's Call Topics



Jan. 21, 2011

"Our collective challenge is to build on Dr. King's legacy, and permeate his wisdom throughout our nation's culture -- in our military and in our communities. The Air Force is dedicated to fostering a diverse force -- one that draws strength and vitality from our different perspectives. We seek empowerment from diversity beyond that of race, gender, religion and other conventional notions of personal identity. Indeed, we seek diversity of thought, education and experiences that have shaped each of us, and which will continue to strengthen our Air Force."

– Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy from their [message](#) commemorating the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[CSAF meets with Airmen during Bagram visit](#)

"It is important we do things the Air Force way. Our joint teammates on the ground have trust and confidence that the Air Force will do whatever is required to enable their success and protect them while they are in harm's way. Is there anything more noble? I am extremely proud of our Air Force," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz during a visit with the Airmen of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

► CURRENT ISSUES

[Congressional commission studies women in combat](#)

Congress established the [Military Leadership Diversity Commission](#) as part of the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The commission's task is to evaluate and assess policies that provide opportunities for promotion and advancement of minority members of the armed forces. The commission's report, expected in March, will include the findings and conclusions of the commission as well as its recommendations for improving diversity within the armed forces.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Air Force officials automate active-duty assignment notifications](#)

Air Force officials are automating active-duty assignment notifications for Airmen in the ranks of lieutenant colonel and below beginning Jan. 21. Airmen will receive an e-mail notification about their new assignments and have seven days to acknowledge through the Virtual Military Personnel Flight website. Colonels, general officers, basic military training and pipeline students still will use the current assignment notification process. For more information, visit the [Air Force personnel services website](#).

Award nominations due by March 1

The deadline to submit nominations for the [Vanguard Award](#), [Pitsenbarger Award](#), and the Air Force Association [Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year and the 2011 Verne Orr awards](#) to the [Air Force Personnel Center](#) is March 1.

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[TRICARE officials announce Young Adult program](#)

Department of Defense announced its introduction of the premium-based [TRICARE](#) Young Adult Program which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to age 26. Expected to be in place later this spring, TYAP implements the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 2011. Premium costs for TYAP are not yet finalized, but the NDAA specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

[How to recover from holiday debt](#)

The new year is a good time to establish a budget, validating it by monitoring expenses and adjusting as necessary. To get out of debt, only use credit cards for expenses that can be paid off at the end of the month, or stop using them completely. Pay off all credit cards by adding monthly payments to the budget. Live by the budget, attack debt and then start saving, adding savings and investments to your budget. Visit www.militaryonesource.com for more information.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

This Week in Air Force History

Jan. 21, 1968 – Communists began a 77-day siege of the U.S. Marine Corps stronghold at Khe Sanh, South Vietnam, which resulted in a victory for U.S. airpower over enemy ground forces

Jan. 22, 1966 – Operation Blue Light, the largest airlift in history into a combat zone, is completed. More than 4,600 tons of equipment and 3,000 troops were airlifted from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, to Pleiku, South Vietnam. The operation began Dec. 27, 1965.

Jan. 24, 1946 – Gen. Carl Spaatz is named the first chief of staff of the Army Air Forces.

Jan. 27, 1967 – Three of America's Apollo astronauts, U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonels Virgil Grissom and Edward H. White and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee, are trapped and killed in a capsule by a flash fire while conducting a preflight rehearsal.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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